(b) if so, whether the use of polythene bags is causing various types of diseases and environmental hazards;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the use of polythene in advanced countries has been banned;

(e) if so, the reasons for allowing polythene materials in the country; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Polythene bags are not harmful to the environment per se. Plastic bags or others plastic packaging should have food grade pigments, plasticizers and additives (other chemicals), which do not lead to harmful effects.

(d) to (f). Based on available information, the use of polythene bags in advanced countries is not banned. As per the amended Export-Import Policy (1992-1997), the import of plastic waste is included in the restricted list and its import is permitted against a licence.

### Soil Conservation Schemes

*196. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Centrally sponsored soil conservation schemes are being implemented in the catchment of the River Valley projects in the country;

(b) if so, the names of river valley projects included under those soil conservation schemes;

(c) whether any River valley has been included in Orissa under the said schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list of on-going 31 catchments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Five River Valley Catchment viz. Hirakud, Machkund-Sileru, Rengali-Mandira, Upper Kolab and Upper Indravati are included.

(e) Does not arise.

**STATEMENT**

*List of Catchments and States covered under centrally sponsored scheme of soil conservation in the catchments of river valley Projects*

| S. No. | Name of Catchment | States in which catchment falls |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Beas (Pong Dam) | Himachal Pradesh |
| 2. | Chambal | M.P., Rajasthan |
| 3. | Damanganga | Gujarat, Maharashtra |
| 4. | Damodar-Barakar | Bihar, West Bengal |
| 5. | Dantiwada | Gujarat, Rajasthan |
| 6. | Ghod | Maharashtra |
| 7. | Gumti | Tripura |
| 8. | Hirakud | M.P., Orissa |
| 9. | Kangsabati | West Bengal |
| 10. | Kundah | Tamil Nadu, Kerala |
| 11. | Lower Bhavani | Tamil Nadu |
| 12. | Machkund Sileru | Andhra Pradesh, Orissa |
| 13. | Mahi | Gujarat, M.P., Rajasthan |
| 14. | Matatila | M.P., U.P. |
| 15. | Mayurakshi | Bihar |
| 16. | Nagarjunasagar | A.P., Karnataka, Maharashtra |
| 17. | Nizamsagar | A.P., Karnataka, Maharashtra |
| 18. | Pagladia | Assam |
| 19. | Pochampad | A.P., Maharashtra |
| 20. | Pohru | Jammu and Kashmir |
| 21. | Ramganga | Uttar Pradesh |
| 22. | Rengali Mandira | Bihar, M.P., Orissa |
| 23. | Sardar Sarovar | Gujarat, M.P., Maharashtra |
| 24. | Sutlej | Himachal Pradesh |
| 25. | Tawa | Madhya Pradesh |
| 26. | Teesta | Sikkim, West Bengal |
| 27. | Thein Dam | J. and K., H.P. and Punjab |
| 28. | Tungbhadra | Karnataka |
| 29. | Ukai | Gujarat, M.P., Maharashtra |
| 30. | Upper Kolab | A.P., M.P., Orissa |
| 31. | Upper Indravati | M.P., Orissa |